

1002228-30E/2001

1 I claim:

2 1. A method of joining two steel pipes including a first pipe with a first flanged end and
3 a second pipe with a first flanged end, the method comprising:

4 machining the first end of the first flanged pipe and the first end of the second
5 flanged pipe such that an internal wall of each of said pipe ends is tapered at
6 an angle;

7 providing a liner of appropriate length for the interior of each said pipe;

8 flaring the liner in the interior of each said pipe to conform to the taper of the
9 machined internal wall of each said pipe ends;

10 providing a coupler with an internal diameter approximately equal to an untapered
11 interior diameter of said respective pipes for engaging the internal flared pipe
12 ends with the liner there between;

13 locating the first end of the first flanged pipe adjacent the first end of the second
14 flanged pipe with the coupler therebetween;

15 providing a fastener for engaging the flanges located on adjacent ends of each
16 respective pipe;

17 compressing the adjacent flanges, wherein the compression wedges the coupler
18 against the liner and flanged ends to effectively fluid seal the ends.

19 2. The method of Claim 1 further including the steps of providing a compressible ring
20 shaped member shaped for receipt between the flanged ends of the two pipes; placing, prior
21 to the compressing step, the compressible member between the two flanged ends; and
22 wherein the compressing step further includes the step of compressing the compressible ring
23 shaped member.

9. The combination of Claim 5 further including a compressible member, for engagement of and compression between the ends of the two pipes.

10. The combination of Claim 5 wherein the fasteners include a multiplicity of nut and bolt combinations.

11. The combination of Claim 5 further comprising two liner sections dimensioned for receipt into the two ends of the two pipes, the liners including flared portions for matching the milled surfaces of the inner surfaces of the ends of the pipes.

12. The combination of Claim 11 where the milled surface the cylindrical coupler are between 5° and 45°.

13. The combination of Claim 11 wherein the cylindrical coupler is made of one of steel.

14. The combination of Claim 11 wherein the cylindrical coupler includes alignment means for assisting in the alignment of the coupler with the ends of the two pipes.

15. The combination of Claim 11 further including a compressible member, for engagement of and compression between the ends of the two pipes.

16. The combination of Claim 5 wherein the compressible member is ring shaped.

17. The combination of Claim 16 wherein the compressible member is made of copper.

18. The combination of Claim 15 wherein the compressible member is ring shaped.

19. The combination of Claim 18 wherein the compressible member is ring shaped.